Paul N. Tauger (Admitted pro hac vice – CA Bar No. 160552)

Email: pnt@eclipsegrp.com

Anna M. Vradenburgh (Admitted pro hac vice – CA Bar No. 163212)

Email: amv@eclipsegrp.com THE ECLIPSE GROUP LLP 2020 Main Street, Suite 600

Irvine, CA 92614

Telephone: 949-851-5000 ext. 110

Facsimile: 949-851-5051

Devon Zastrow Newman, OSB #014627

Email: dnewman@schwabe.com

Catherine B. Brinkman, OSB #002134

Email: cbrinkman@schwabe.com

SCHWABE, WILLIAMSON & WYATT, P.C.

1211 SW 5th Ave., Suite 1900

Portland, OR 97204 Telephone: 503-222-9981 Facsimile: 503-796-2900

Attorneys for Defendant and Counterclaimant Tenza Trading Ltd.

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

## FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON

CALISTA ENTERPRISES LTD, a

Republic of Seychelles Company,

Plaintiff,

VS.

TENZA TRADING LTD., a Cyprus Company,

Defendant.

Case No. 3:13-cv-01045-SI

DEFENDANT AND COUNTERCLAIMANT TENZA'S RESPONSE TO COURT ORDER OF JUNE 13, 2014



**TENZA TRADING LTD.,** a Cyprus Company,

Counterclaim Plaintiff,

v.

CALISTA ENTERPRISES LTD, a
Republic of Seychelles Company; and
ALEXANDER ZHUKOV,
a Czechoslovakian citizen,

**Counterclaim Defendants.** 

## I. Introduction

This Court has requested that Tenza provide citation to legal authority supporting Tenza's assertion that, "It is settled law in this Circuit that the alter-ego of a corporate entity is deemed served when the corporate entity is served." Tenza provides the authority cited herein, and attaches the full cases as an appendix hereto.

II. Authority for the Proposition that it is Settled Law in this Circuit that the Alter-ego of a Corporate Entity is Deemed Served When the Corporate Entity is Served

The short decision in *Certified Bldg. Products, Inc. v. N.L.R.B.*, 528 F.2d 968, 969 (9th Cir. 1976) addressed, solely, the question of whether *in personam* jurisdiction was obtained over a respondent to a National Labor Relations Board proceeding. In *Certified*, Mr. Fidler was alleged to be the alter ego of his corporation, Certified Building Products. The Ninth Circuit held: "The record supports the Board's finding that the corporation is Fidler's alter ego.

Accordingly, in a board proceeding of this kind, service upon the corporation is the equivalent of service upon the individual." *Id.* That the Ninth Circuit holding was not limited to NLRB proceedings is confirmed by the US district courts that have construed the opinion. *See, e.g., Global, Inc. v. Fax87.Com*, CV 13-05353 DDP AJWX, 2014 WL 462832 (C.D. Cal. Feb. 5, 2014) ("j2 additionally argues that Fani was properly served because service was executed



properly on MJF, which j2 contends is Fani's alter ego. Service on a defendant's alter ego may constitute service on defendant himself."), citing Certified Bldg. Prods. Ins. V. N.L.R.B., 528 F.2d 968, 969 (9th Cir. 1976). The following are examples of cases that, though citing Certified Bldg. Products with respect to personal jurisdiction, also recognize that the case applies to federal court cases and is not, in any way, limited to the NLRB: Goldman v. Seawind Grp. Holdings Pty Ltd., CV 13-01759 SI, 2013 WL 4647492 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 29, 2013) ("If a corporation is the alter ego of an individual defendant, or one corporation is the alter ego of another, a court may "pierce the corporate veil" and attribute the "contacts" of the corporation to the individual. Certified Building Products, Inc. v. NLRB, 528 F.2d 968, 969 (9th Cir.1976)"); Peak Performance Nutrition v. MediaPower, Inc., CV09-4933 AG (SHX), 2010 WL 2384412 (C.D. Cal. June 7, 2010) ("But if a corporation is the alter ego of an individual, courts may "pierce the corporate veil" and attribute contacts of the corporation to the individual. Certified Bldg. Prods., Inc. v. N.L.R.B., 528 F.2d 968, 969 (9th Cir. 1976)"); RAE Sys., Inc. v. TSA Sys., Ltd., C 04-2030 FMS, 2005 WL 1513124 (N.D. Cal. June 24, 2005) (Under the federal law governing the exercise of personal jurisdiction, if a corporation is the alter ego of an individual defendant, or one corporation the alter ego of another, the Court may "pierce the corporate veil" jurisdictionally and attribute "contacts" accordingly. Certified Building Products, Inc. v. NLRB, 528 F.2d 968, 969 (9th Cir.1975)"); Perrotta v. Roadway Global Air, C-96-20281 SW, 1996 WL 723031 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 9, 1996) ("If a corporation is the alter ego of an individual defendant, or one corporation the alter ego of another, courts may then "pierce the corporate veil" jurisdictionally and attribute "contacts" accordingly. Certified Building Products, Inc. v. NLRB, 528 F.2d 968, 969 (9th Cir. 1976)."); Hoag v. Sweetwater Int'l, 857 F. Supp. 1420, 1426 (D. Nev. 1994) ("However, the corporate form may be ignored, and jurisdiction over the individual



officer allowed, in cases in which the corporation is the agent or alter ego of the defendant. Certified Bldg. Prods., Inc. v. National Labor Relations Bd., 528 F.2d 968 (9th Cir. 1976).").

Moreover, Shepardizing Certified Bldg. Prods. revealed no cases either criticizing the case, or suggesting that its holding is limited to NLRB proceedings. As such, Tenza respectfully submits that Certified Bldg. Prods. states the settled law of the Ninth Circuit, i.e. the alter-ego of a corporate entity is deemed served when the corporate entity is served.

Date: June 13, 2014 Respectfully submitted,

Paul N. Tauger, Admitted Pro Hac Vice

Anna M. Vradenburgh, Admitted *Pro Hac Vice* 

THE ECLIPSE GROUP LLP Telephone: 949-851-5000 ext. 110

Facsimile: 949-851-5051

Devon Zastrow Newman, OSB #014627 Catherine B. Brinkman, OSB #002134 SCHWABE, WILLIAMSON & WYATT, P.C.

Telephone: 503-222-9981 Facsimile: 503-796-2900

Attorneys for Defendant Tenza Trading Ltd.